5.7.97

# FIVE LOVE-LETTERS FROM A [Portuguese] NUN TO A [French] CAVALIER.

[i.e. M. d'Alcoforado.]

[i.e. the Chevalier de Chamilly.]

Done out of *French* into *English*,

BY

*ROGER L'ESTRANGE.*

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TO THE

# Reader

YOu are to take this Tranſlation very Kindly, for the Authour of it has ventur'd his Reputation to Oblige you: Ventur'd it (I ſay) even in the very

very Attempt of Copying so Nice an Original. It is, in *French*, one of the most Artificial Pieces perhaps of the Kind, that is any where Extant: Beside the Peculiar Graces, and Felicities of that Language, in the Matter of an *Amour*, which cannot be adopted into any other Tongue without Extream

tream Force, and Affectation. There was (it ſeems) an *Intrigue* of Love carry'd on betwixt a *French Officer*, and a *Nun* in *Portugal*. The Cavalier forſakes his Miſtreſs, and Returns for *France*. The Lady expoſtulates the Buſineſs in five Letters of Complaint, which She ſends after him; and thoſe five

five Letters are here at your Service. You will find in them the Lively Image of an Extravagant, and an Unfortunate Passion; and that *a Woman may be Flesh and Bloud, in a Cloyster, as well as in a Palace.*

FIVE

# FIVE
# Portugaiſe
# LETTERS
## Turn'd into
# ENGLISH.

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### *The firſt Letter.*

OH my Inconſiderate, Improvident, and moſt unfortunate Love; and thoſe Treacherous Hopes that

have betray'd both Thee, and Me! The Paſſion that I deſign'd for the Bleſſing of my Life, is become the Torment of it: A Torment, as prodigious as the Cruelty of his Abſence that cauſes it. Bleſs mee! But muſt this Abſence laſt for ever? This Helliſh Abſence, that Sorrow it ſelf wants words to expreſs? Am I then never to ſee thoſe Eyes again, that have ſo often exchang'd Love with Mine, and Charm'd my very ſoul with Extacy, and Delight? Thoſe Eyes that were

were ten thousand worlds to mee, and all that I desir'd; the only comfortable Light of Mine, which, since I understood the Resolution of your Insupportable Departure, have Serv'd mee but to weep withall, and to lament the sad Approach of my Inevitable fate. And yet in this Extremity I cannot, me-thinks, but have some Tenderness, even for the Misfortunes that are of your Creating. My Life was vow'd to you the first time I saw you: and since you would

not accept of it as a Preſent, I am Content to make it a ſacrifice. A Thouſand times a day I ſend my Sighs to hunt you out: and what Return for all my Paſſionate Diſquiets, but the good Counſel of my Croſs fortune? that whiſpers me at every turn; Ah wretched *Mariane!* why do'ſt thou flatter, and Conſume thy ſelf in the vain purſuit of a Creature never to be Recover'd? Hee's gone, hee's gone; Irrevocably gone; h'as paſt the ſeas to fly thee.

Hee's

Hee's now in *France*; diſſolv'd in pleaſures; and thinks no more of thee, or what thou ſuffer'ſt for his falſe ſake, then if he had never known any ſuch woman. But hold: Y'ave more of Honour in you then to do ſo ill a thing; and ſo have I, then to believe it, eſpecially of a Perſon that I'm ſo much concern'd to juſtify. *Forget me*? 'Tis Impoſſible. My Caſe is bad enough at beſt, without the Aggravation of vain ſuppoſitions. No, no: The Care and Pains you

took to make me think you lov'd me, and then the Joyes that That Care gave Me, muſt never be forgotten: and ſhould I love you leſs this Moment, then when I lov'd you moſt, ( in Confidence that you lov'd me ſo too ) I were Ungratefull. 'Tis an Unnatural, and a ſtrange thing methinks, that the Remembrance of thoſe bleſſed hours ſhould be now ſo terrible to me; and that thoſe delights that were ſo raviſhing in the Enjoyment, ſhould become ſo bitter

ter in the Reflection. Your last Letter gave me such a Passion of the heart, as if it would have forc'd its way thorough my Breast, and follow'd you. It laid me three hours senseless: I wish it had been *dead*; for I had dy'd of Love. But I reviv'd: and to what End? only to die again, and lose that Life for you, which you your self did not think worth the saving. Beside that there's no Rest for me, while you're Away, but in the grave. This fit was follow'd with other

Ill Accidents which I ſhall never be without, till I ſee you: In the mean while, I bear them yet without repining, becauſe they came from you. But with your Leave: Is this the Recompenſe that you intend me? Is this your way of treating thoſe that love you? Yet 'tis no Matter, for (do what you will) I am reſolv'd to be firm to you to my laſt gaſp; and never to ſee the Eyes of any other Mortal. And I dare aſſure you that it will not be the worſe for you neither,

ther, if you never ſet your heart upon any other woman: for certainly a Paſſion under the degree of mine, will never content you: You may find more Beauty perhaps elſwhere (tho' the time was when you found no fault with mine) but you ſhall never meet with ſo true a heart; and all the reſt is nothing.

Let me entreat you not to ſtuff your Letters with things Unprofitable, and Impertinent to our Affair: and you may ſave your ſelf the trouble too of

desiring me to THINK of you. why 'tis Impossible for me to forget you: and I must not forget the hope you gave me neither, of your Return, and of spending some part of your time here with us in *Portugal*. Alas! And why not your whole Life rather? If I could but find any way to deliver my self from this unlucky Cloyster, I should hardly stand gaping here for the performance of your Promise: but in defiance of all opposition, put my self upon the March,

Search

Search you out, follow you, and love you throughout the whole world. It is not that I pleaſe my ſelf with this Project as a thing feaſible; or that I would ſo much as entertain any hope of Comfort; (tho' in the very deluſion I might find pleaſure) but as it is my Lot to be miſerable, I will be only ſenſible of that which is my Doom. And yet after all this, I cannot deny but upon this Opportunity of writing to you which my Brother has given me, I was

ſurpriz'd with ſome faint Glimmerings of Delight, that yielded me a temporary Reſpite to the horrour of my deſpair. Tell me I conjure you; what was it that made you ſo ſollicitous to entangle me, when you knew you were to leave me? And why ſo bloudily bent to make me Unhappy? why could you not let me alone at quiet in my Cloyſter as you found me? Did I ever do you any Injury?

But I muſt ask your Pardon; for I lay nothing

to

to your Charge. I am not in condition to meditate a Revenge: and I can only complain of the Rigour of my Perverſe fortune. When ſhe has parted our Bodies, ſhe has done her worſt, and left us nothing more to fear: Our hearts are Inſeparable; for thoſe whom Love has United are never to be divided. As you tender my ſoul let me hear often from you. I have a Right me-thinks to the Knowledg both of your Heart, and of your fortune; and to your Care to inform me

me of it too. But *what ever you do, be sure to come; and above all things in the world, to let me see you. Adieu.* And yet I cannot quitt this Paper yet. Oh that I could but convey my self in the Place on't! Mad fool that I am, to talk at this Rate of a thing that I my self know to be Impossible! *Adieu.* For I can go no farther. *Adieu.* Do but Love me for ever, and I care not what I endure.

THE

# THE SECOND Letter.

THere is so great a difference betwixt the Love I write, and That which I feel, that if you measure the One by the Other, I have undone my self. Oh how happy were I if you

you could but judg of my Passion by the violence of your own! But That I perceive is not to be the Rule betwixt you, and me. Give me leave however to tell you with an honest freedom, that tho' you cannot love me, you do very ill yet to treat me at this Barbarous Rate: It puts me out of my Wits to see my self forgotten; and it is as little for your Credit perhaps, as it is for my Quiet. Or if I may not say that you are Unjust, it is yet the most Reasonable thing in

in the World to let me tell you that I am Miſerable: I foreſaw what it would come to, upon the very Inſtant of your Reſolution to leave me. Weak Woman that I was! to expect, (after this) that you ſhould have more Honour, and Integrity then other Men, becauſe I had unqueſtionably deſerv'd it from you, by a tranſcendent degree of Affection above the Love of Other Women. No, no; Your Levity, and Averſion have overrul'd your Gratitude, and Juſtice;

Juſtice; you are my Enemy by Inclination: whereas only the Kindneſs of your Diſpoſition can Oblige me. Nay your Love it ſelf, if it were barely grounded upon my Loving of you, could never make me happy. But ſo far am I even from that Pretence, that in ſix Moneths I have not receiv'd one ſillable from you; Which I muſt impute to the blind fondneſs of my own Paſſion, for I ſhould otherwiſe have foreſeen that my Comforts were to be but Tempo-

Temporary, and my Love Everlaſting. For Why ſhould I think that you would ever content your ſelf to ſpend your Whole Life in *Portugal*; and relinquiſh your Country, and your fortune, only to think of me? Alas! my ſorrows are Inconſolable, and the very Remembrance of my paſt Enjoyments makes up a great part of my preſent pain. But muſt all my hopes be blaſted then, and fruitleſs? Why may not I yet live to ſee you again within theſe Walls,

and

and with all those Transports of Extacy, and Satisfaction, as heretofore? But how I fool my self! for I find now that the Passion, which on my side, took up all the faculties of my soul, and Body, was only excited on your part by some loose Pleasures, and that they were to live and die together. It should have been my Business, even in the Nick of those Critical, and Blessed Minutes, to have Reason'd my self into the Moderation of so Charming, and deadly an Excess; and

to

to have told my ſelf be-fore-hand, the fate which I now ſuffer. But my Thoughts were too much taken up with You to conſider my ſelf; So that I was not in Condition to attend the Care of my Repoſe, or to bethink my ſelf of what might poiſon it, and diſappoint me in the full Emprove-ment of the moſt Ardent Inſtances of your Affecti-on. I was too much pleas'd with you, to think of parting with you, and yet you may remember that I have told you now

and

and then by fits, that you would be the Ruin of me. But thoſe Phancies were ſoon diſpers'd; and I was glad to yield them up too; and to give up my ſelf to the Enchantments of your falſe Oaths, and Proteſtations. I ſee very well the Remedy of all my Misfortunes, and that I ſhould quickly be at Eaſe if I could leave Loving you. But Alas! That were a Remedy worſe then the diſeaſe. No, no: I'le rather endure any thing then forget you. Nor could I if I would.

would. 'Tis a thing that did never ſo much as enter into my Thought. But is not your Condition now the worſe of the two? Is it not better to endure what I now ſuffer, then to enjoy Your faint ſatisfactions among your French Miſtreſſes? I am ſo far from Envying your Indifference, that I Pitty it. I defie you to forget me abſolutely: and I am deceiv'd if I have not taken ſuch a Courſe with you, that you ſhall never be perfectly happy without me. Nay perhaps I am

am at this Inſtant the leſs miſerable of the two; in regard that I am the more employ'd. They have lately made me door-keeper here in this Convent. All the people that talk to me think me mad; for I anſwer them I know not what; And certainly the reſt of the Convent muſt be as mad as I, they would never elſe have thought me Capable of any Truſt. How do I envy the good Fortune of poor *Emanuel*, and *Franciſco*! Why cannot I be with you perpetually

as

as they are? tho in your Livery too? I ſhould follow you as Cloſe without diſpute, and ſerve you at leaſt as faithfully; for there is nothing in this World that I ſo much deſire as to ſee you; But however, let me entreat you to think of me; and I ſhall Content my ſelf with a bare place in your Memory. And yet I cannot tell neither, whether I ſhould or no: for I know very well that when I ſaw you every day I ſhould hardly have ſatisfy'd my ſelf within theſe

Bounds. But you have taught me ſince, that whatſoever you will have me do, I muſt do. In the *Interim*, I do not at all repent of my Paſſion for you; Nay, I am well enough ſatisfi'd that you have ſeduc'd me; and your Abſence it ſelf tho' never ſo rigorous, and perhaps Eternal, does not at all leſſen the vigour of my Love: which I will avow to the Whole world, for I make no ſecret on't. I have done many things irregularly 'tis true; and and againſt the Common Rules

Rules of good Manners: and not without taking ſome Glory in them neither, becauſe they were done for your ſake. My honour, and Religion are brought only to ſerve the Turn of my Love, and to carry me on to my lives end, in the Paſſionate Continuance of the Affection I have begun. I do not write this, to draw a Letter from you; wherefore never force your ſelf for the Matter: for I will receive nothing at your hands; no not ſo much as any Mark of your Affe-

ction unleſs it comes of its own accord, and in a Manner, whether you Will or No. If it may give you any ſatisfaction, to ſave your ſelf the trouble of Writing, it ſhall give me ſome likewiſe, to excuſe the Unkindneſs of it; for I am wonderfully enclin'd to paſs over all your faults. A *French* Officer, that had the Charity this morning to hold me at leaſt three hours in a diſcourſe of you, tells me that *France* has made a Peace. If it be ſo; Why cannot you beſtow a viſit upon

upon me, and take me away with you? But 'tis more then I deſerve, and it muſt be as you pleaſe; for my Love does not at all depend upon your Manner of treating me. Since you went away I have not had one Minutes Health, nor any ſort of Pleaſure, but in the Accents of your Name, which I call upon a Thouſand times a day. Some of my Companions that underſtand the deplorable Ruin you have brought upon me, are ſo good as to entertain me many

times concerning you. I keep as Cloſe to my Chamber as is poſſible; which is the dearer to me even for the many Viſits you have made me there. Your Picture I have perpetually before me, and I Love it more then my hearts bloud. The very Counterfeit gives me ſome Comfort: But oh the Horrours too! When I conſider that the Original, for ought I know, is loſt for ever. But why ſhould it be poſſible, even to be poſſible, that I may never ſee you more? Have you for-

forſaken me then for ever? It turns my Brain to think on't. Poor *Mariane*! But my Spirits fail me, and I ſhall ſcarce out-live this Letter?---Mercy---Farwel, Farwel.

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# THE THIRD Letter.

WHat ſhall become of me? Or what will you adviſe me to do? How ſtrangely am I diſſappointed, in all my Expectations! Where are the Letters from you? the

Long and Kind Letters that I look'd for by every Poſt? To keep me alive in the hopes of Seeing you again; and in the Confidence of your faith, and Juſtice; to ſettle me in ſome tolerable ſtate of Repoſe, without being abandon'd to any inſupportable Extream? I had once caſt my Thoughts upon ſome Idle Projects of endeavouring my own Cure, in Caſe I could but once aſſure my ſelf that I was totally forgotten. The diſtance you were at; Certain Impulſes of Devotion;

votion; the fear of utterly deſtroying the Remainder of my Imperfect health, by ſo many reſtleſs Nights, and Cares; the Improbability of your Return; The Coldneſs of your Paſſion, and the Formality of your laſt *Adieu's*; Your Weak, and frivolous pretences for your departure: Theſe, with a thouſand other Conſiderations, (of more weight, then profit) did all concurre to encourage me in my deſign, if I ſhould find it neceſſary; In fine; having only my

ſingle ſelf to encounter I could not doubt of the ſucceſs, nor could it enter into my Apprehenſion what I feel at this day. Alas! how wretched is my Condition, that am not allow'd ſo much as to divide theſe ſorrows with you, of which you your ſelf are the Cauſe? You are the Offender, and I am to bear the Puniſhment of your Crime. It ſtrikes me to the very heart, for fear you, that are now ſo Inſenſible of my Torments, were never much affected with our mutual delights.

delights. Yes, yes; 'Tis now a Clear Caſe that your whole Addreſs to me was only an Artificial diſguiſe. You betray'd me as often as you told me, how over-joy'd you were that you had got me alone: and your Paſſions, and Tranſports were only the Effects of my own Importunities. Yours was a deliberate deſign to fool me; your buſineſs was to make a Conqueſt, not a friend; and to triumph over my Heart, without ever engaging or hazzarding your own. Are not you

you very Unhappy now, and (at leaſt) Ill-natur'd, if not ill-bred, only to make this wretched uſe of ſo Superlative a friendſhip? Who would have thought it poſſible that ſuch a Love as mine, ſhould not have made you happy? 'Tis for your ſake alone if I am troubl'd for the Infinite delights that you have loſt, and might as eaſily have enjoy'd, had you but thought them worth the while. Ah! If you did but underſtand them aright, you would find a great difference betwixt

twixt the Pleaſure of Obliging me, and that of Abuſing me; and betwixt the Charming felicities of Loving violently, and of being ſo belov'd. I do not know either what I am, or what I do, or what I would be at. I am torn to pieces by a Thouſand contrary Motions, and in a Condition deplorable beyond imagination. I love you to death, and ſo tenderly too that I dare hardly wiſh your heart in the ſame condition with mine. I ſhould deſtroy my ſelf, or

die

die with Grief, could I believe your nights and Thoughts, as reſtleſs as I find Mine; your Life as Anxious and diſturb'd; your Eyes ſtill flowing, and all things and people Odious to you. Alas! I am hardly able to bear up under my own Misfortunes; how ſhould I then Support the Weight of yours; which would be a Thouſand times more grievous to me? And yet all this While I cannot bring my ſelf to adviſe you, not to Think of me. And to deal freely with

you,

you, there is not any thing in *France* that you take pleaſure in, or that comes near your heart, but I'm moſt furiouſly jealous of it. I do not know what 'tis I write for. Perhaps you'l pitty me; but what good will that pitty do me? I'le none on't. Oh how I hate my ſelf when I conſider what I have forfeited to oblige you! I have blaſted my Reputation; I have loſt my Parents; I have expos'd my ſelf to the Lawes of my Country againſt Perſons of my Profeſſion; and finally,

to

to your Ingratitude, the worſt of my Misfortunes. But why do I pretend to a Remorſe, when at this Inſtant, I ſhould be glad with all my Soul, if I had run ten thouſand greater hazzards for your dear Sake? and for the danger of my Life and Honour; the very thought on't is a kind of doleful Pleaſure to me, and all's no more then the delivery of whats your own, and what I hold moſt Pretious, into your Diſpoſition; And I do not know how all theſe riſques could have been

been better Imploy'd. Upon the Whole matter, every thing diſpleaſes me, my Love, my Misfortune; and alas! I cannot perſwade my ſelf that I am well us'd even by You. And yet I Live, (falſe as I am) and take as much pains to preſerve my life, as to loſe it. Why do I not die of ſhame then, and ſhew you the deſpair of my Heart, as well as of my Letters? If I had lov'd you ſo much as I have told you a thouſand times I did, I had been in my Grave long ere this. But I have deluded

luded you, and the Cauſe of Complaint is now on your ſide. Alas! why did you not tell me of it? Did I not ſee you go away? Am I not out of all hopes of ever ſeeing you again? And am I yet alive? I have betray'd you, and I beg your pardon. But do not grant it though; Treat me as ſeverely as you will: Tell me that my Paſſion is Weak, and Irreſolute. Make your ſelf yet harder to be pleas'd. Write me word that you would have me die for you. Do it, I conjure

jure you; and assist me in the Work of surmounting the Infirmity of my Sex; and that I may put an end to all my fruitless deliberations, by an effectual despair. A Tragical Conclusion would undoubtedly bring me often into your thoughts, and make my Memory dear to you. And who knows how you might be Affected, with the Bravery of so Glorious a death? A death Incomparably to be preferr'd before the Life that you have left me. Farwel then; and *I wish*

*I had never ſeen the Eyes of you.* But my heart Contradicts my Pen; for I feel, in the very moment that I write it, that I would rather chuſe to Love you in any ſtate of Miſery, then agree to the bare Suppoſition that I had never Seen you. Wherefore ſince you do not think fit, to mend my fortune, I ſhall chearfully ſubmit to the worſt on't. *Adieu*; but firſt promiſe me, that if I die of grief, you will have ſome Tenderneſs for my Aſhes: Or at leaſt that

the

the Generosity of my Passion shall put you out of Love with all other things. This Consolation shall satisfie me, that if you must never be mine, I may be secur'd that you shall never be Anothers. You cannot be so Inhumane sure, as to make a mean use of my most Affectionate despairs, and to recommend your self to any other Woman, by shewing the Power you have had upon me. Once more, *Adieu*. My Letters are long, and I fear troublesom; but I hope you'l

you'l forgive them, and diſpenſe with the fooleries of a Sot of your own making. *Adieu.* Methinks I run over and over too often with the ſtory of my moſt deplorable Condition: Give me leave now to thank you from the Bottom of my heart for the Miſeries you have brought upon me, and to deteſt the Tranquillity I liv'd in before I knew you. My Paſſion is greater every Moment than other. *Adieu.* Oh what a World of things have I to tell you!

THE

# THE FOURTH Letter.

YOur Lieutenant tells me that you were forc'd by foul Weather to put in upon the Coaſt of *Algarve*. I am afraid the Sea does not agree with you; and my Fears for your Misfortunes make

me almoſt to forget my own. Can you imagin your Lieutenant to be more concern'd in what befals you, than I am? If not, How comes he to be ſo well inform'd, and not one ſillable to me? If you could never find the means of writing to me ſince you went, I am very Unhappy; but I am more ſo, if you could have written, and would not. But what ſhould a body expect from ſo much Ingratitude, and Injuſtice? And yet it would break my heart, if hea-

ven

ven ſhould puniſh you upon any account of mine. For I had much rather gratifie my Kindneſs, than my Revenge. There can be nothing clearer, than that you neither Love me, nor Care what becomes of me; and yet am I ſo fooliſh, as to follow the Dictate of a blind, and beſotted Paſſion, in oppoſition to the Counſels of a demonſtrative Reaſon. This Coldneſs of yours, when you and I were firſt acquainted, would have ſav'd me many a ſorrowful Thought.

But where's the Woman, that in my Place, would have done otherwiſe than I did? Who would ever have queſtion'd the Truth of ſo preſſing and Artificial an Importunity? We cannot eaſily bring our ſelves to ſuſpect the Faith of thoſe we Love. I know very well, that a ſlender Excuſe will ſerve your Turn; and I'le be ſo kind as to ſave you even the Labour of That too, by telling you, that I can never conſent to conclude you guilty, but in order to the infinite Pleaſure

ſure I ſhall take to acquit you, in perſwading my ſelf that you are Innocent. It was the Aſſiduity of your Converſation that refin'd me; your Paſſion that inflam'd me; Your good humour that Charm'd me; your Oaths, and Vows that confirm'd me; but 'twas my own precipitate Inclination that ſeduc'd me; and what's the Iſſue of theſe fair, and promiſing Beginnings, but Sighs, Tears, Diſquiets, nay, and the worſt of Deaths too, without either Hope, or Remedy.

The Delights of my Love, I muſt confeſs, have been ſtrangely ſurprizing; but follow'd with Miſeries not to be expreſs'd; (as whatever comes from you works upon me in Extreams.) If I had either obſtinately oppos'd your Addreſs; or done any thing to put you out of humour, or make you jealous, with a deſign to draw you on: If I had gon any crafty, artificial wayes to work with you; or but ſo much as check'd my early, and my growing Inclinations to comply

ply with you, (tho' it would have been to no purpoſe at all) you might have had ſome Colour then to make uſe of your Power, and deal with me accordingly. But ſo far was I from oppoſing your Paſſion, that I prevented it; for I had a kindneſs for your Perſon, before you ever told me any thing of your Love; and you had no ſooner declar'd it, but with all the joy imaginable I receiv'd it, and gave my ſelf up wholly to that Inclination. You had at that

time your Eyes in your Head, tho' I was Blind. Why would you let me go on then to make my ſelf the miſerable Creature which now I am? Why would you train me on to all thoſe Extravagances which to a perſon of your Indifference muſt needs have been very Importune? You knew well enough that you were not to be always in *Portugal*; Why muſt I then be ſingl'd out from all the reſt, to be made thus Unfortunate? In this Country without diſpute you

you might have found out handſomer Women than my ſelf, that would have ſerv'd your turn every jot as well, (to your courſe purpoſe) and that would have been true to you as far as they could have ſeen you, without breaking their hearts for you, when you were gon: and ſuch as you might have forſaken at laſt, without either Falſneſs, or Cruelty: Do you call this the Tenderneſs of a Lover, or the Perſecution of a Tyrant? And 'tis but deſtroying of your own nei-

ther. You are juſt as eaſie, I find, to believe ill of me, as I have always been to think better of you than you have deſerv'd. Had you but lov'd me half ſo well as I do you, you would never have parted with me upon ſo eaſie Terms. I ſhould have maſter'd greater Difficulties, and never have upbraided you with the Obligation neither. Your Reaſons, 'tis true, were very feeble, but if they had been the ſtrongeſt imaginable, it had been all one to me: for

for nothing but death it ſelf could ever have torn me from you. Your Return into *France* was nothing in the World but a Pretext of your own contriving. *There was a Veſſel* (you ſaid) *that was thither bound.* And why could not you let that Veſſel take her Courſe? *Your Relations ſent for you away.* You are are no ſtranger ſure to the Perſecution, that for your ſake, I have ſuffer'd from mine. *Your Honour* (forſooth) *engag'd you to forſake me.* Why did you not think of

that ſcruple, when you deluded me to the loſs of mine? *Well! but you muſt go back to ſerve your Prince.* His Majeſty, I preſume, would have excus'd you in that point; for I cannot learn that he has any need of your Service. But, Alas! I ſhould have been too happy, if you and I might have liv'd, and dy'd together. This only Comfort I have in the bitterneſs of our deadly ſeparation, that I was never falſe to you; and that for the whole World I would not have my Conſcience

ſcience tainted with ſo black a Crime. But can you then, that know the Integrity of my Soul, and the Tenderneſs that I have for you; can you (I ſay) find in your heart to abandon me for ever, and expoſe me to the Terrours that attend my wretched Condition? Never ſo much as to think of me again, but only when you are to ſacrifice me to a new Paſſion. My Love, you ſee, has diſtracted me; and yet I make no complaint at all of the violence of it: for I

am

am ſo wonted to Perſecutions, that I have diſcover'd a kind of pleaſure in them, which I would not live without, and which I enjoy, while I love you, in the middle of a thouſand afflictions. The moſt grievous part of my Calamity, is the hatred, and diſguſt that you have given me for all other things: My Friends, my Kindred, the Convent it ſelf is grown intollerable to me; and whatſoever I am oblig'd either to ſee, or to do, is become odious. I am grown ſo jea-

lous

lous of my Paſſion, that methinks all my Actions, and all my Dutys ought to have ſome regard to you. Nay, every moment that is not employ'd upon your ſervice, my Conſcience checks me for it, either as misbeſtow'd, or caſt away. My Heart is full of Love, and Hatred; and, Alas! what ſhould I do without it? ſhould I ſurvive this reſtleſsneſs of thought, to lead a Life of more tranquility, and eaſe, ſuch an Emptineſs, and ſuch an Inſenſibility could never con-

conſiſt. Every Creature takes Notice how ſtrangely I am chang'd in my Humour, my Manners, and in my Perſon. My Mother takes me to task about it: One while ſhe ſpeaks me fair, and then ſhe chides me, and asks me what I ail. I do not well know what anſwers I have made her; but I Phancy that I have told her all. The moſt ſevere, even of the Religious themſelves, take pity of me, and bear with my Condition. The whole World is touch'd with

my

my Misfortunes; your ſingle ſelf excepted, as wholy unconcern'd: Either you are not pleas'd to write at all; or elſe your Letters are ſo cold; ſo ſtuff'd with Repetitions; the Paper not half full, and your Conſtraint ſo groſly diſguis'd, that one may ſee with half an Eye the pain you are in till they are over. *Dona Brites* would not let me be quiet the other day, till ſhe had got me out of my Chamber, on to the Balcon that looks (you know) toward *Mertola*: ſhe

ſhe did it to oblige me, and I follow'd her : But the very ſight of the Place ſtruck me with ſo terrible an Impreſſion, that it ſet me a Crying the whole day after. Upon this, ſhe took me back again, and I threw my ſelf upon my Bed, where I paſs'd a thouſand Reflections upon the deſpairs of my Recovery. I am the worſe I find for that which people do to relieve me ; and the Remedies they offer me do but ſerve to aggravate my Miſeries. Many a time

time have I ſeen you paſs by from this Balcon; (and the ſight pleas'd me but too well) and there was I that fatal day, when I firſt found my ſelf ſtrook with this unhappy Paſſion. Methought you look'd as if you had a mind to oblige me, even before you knew me; and your Eye was more upon me than the reſt of the Company. And when you made a ſtop, I fool'd my ſelf to think that it was meant to me too, that I might take a fuller view of you, and ſee how every

every thing became you. Upon giving your Horſe the ſpur (I remember) my heart was at my mouth for fear of an untoward leap you put him upon. In fine; I could not but ſecretly concern my ſelf in all your Actions; and as you were no longer indifferent to me, ſo I took ſeveral things to my ſelf alſo from you; and as done in my favour. I need not tell you the ſequel of Matters (not that I care who knows it) nor would I willingly write the whole Story, leſt I ſhould make you thought

thought more culpable (if poſſible) than in Effect (perhaps) you are. Beſide that it might furniſh your Vanity with ſubject of reproach, by ſhewing that all my Labours, and Endeavours to make ſure of you, could not yet keep you from forſaking me. But what a fool am I, in thinking to work more upon your Ingratitude, with Letters, and Invectives, than ever I could with my Infinite Love, and the liberty that attended it! No, no: I am too ſure of my ill Fortune,

and

and you are too unjuſt to make me doubt of it; and ſince I find my ſelf deſerted, what miſchief is there in Nature which I am not to fear? But are your Charms only to work upon me? Why may not other Women look upon you with my Eyes? I ſhould be well enough content perhaps to find more of my Sex (in ſome degree) of my Opinion; and that all the Ladyes of *France* had an eſteem for you, provided that none of them either doted upon you,

you, or pleas'd you: This is a moſt ridiculous, and an impoſſible Propoſition. But there's no danger (I may ſpeak it upon ſad Experience) of your troubling your head long with any one thing; and you will forget me eaſily enough, without the help of being forc'd to't by a new Paſſion. So infinitely do I love you, that (ſince I am to loſe you) I could e'en wiſh that you had had ſome fairer colour for't. It is true, that it would have made me more miſerable,

ſerable; but you ſhould have had leſs to anſwer for then. You'l ſtay in *France*, I perceive, in perfect Freedom, and perhaps not much to your Satisfaction; The Incommodities of a long Voyage; ſome Punctilioes of good Manners; and the fear of not returning Love for Love, may perchance keep you there. Oh, you may ſafely truſt me in this Caſe: Let me but only ſee you now and then, and know that we are both of us in the ſame Country, it ſhall con-

content me. But why do I flatter my ſelf? Who knows but that the Rigour and Severity of ſome other Woman may come to prevail upon you more than all my Favours? tho' I cannot believe you yet to be a Perſon that will be wrought upon by ill uſage.

Before you come to engage in any powerful Paſſion, let me entreat you to bethink your ſelf of the Exceſs of my Sorrows; the Uncertainty of my Purpoſes; the Diſtraction of my Thoughts;

the Extravagance of my Letters; the Truſts I have repos'd in you; my Deſpairs, my Wiſhes, and my Jealouſies. Alas! I am affraid that you are about to make your ſelf unfortunate. Take warning, I beg of you, by my Example, and make ſome Uſe to your ſelf of the Miſeries that I endure for you. I remember you told me in Confidence, (and in great Earneſt too) ſome five, or ſix Months a go, that you had once a Paſſion for a *French* Lady. If ſhe be any Obſtacle

ſtacle to your Return, deal frankly with me, and put me out of my Pain. It will be a kind of Mercy to me, if the faint hope which yet Supports me, muſt never take effect, even to loſe my Life, and that together. Pray'e ſend me her picture, and Some of her Letters, and write me all ſhe ſays. I ſhall find Something there undoubtedly that will make me either better, or worſe. In the Condition that I am, I cannot long continue; and any Change whatſoever muſt be to my

Advantage. I ſhould take it kindly if you would ſend me your Brothers, and your Siſters pictures too. Whatſoever is dear to you muſt be ſo to me; and I am a very faithful Servant to any thing that is related to you: and it cannot be otherwiſe: for you have left me no power at all to diſpoſe of my ſelf. Sometimes me-thinks I could Submit even to attend upon the Woman that you Love. So low am I brought by your Scorns, and ill Uſage, that I dare not ſo much as ſay

to

Let it ſuffice that I know you now as well as if I were in the heart of you. The only favour that I have now to deſire from you, after ſo many done for you, is This: (and I hope you will not refuſe it me) Write no more to me; and remember that I have conjur'd you never to do it. Do all that is Poſſible for you to do, (if ever you had any Love for me) to make me abſolutely forget you. For Alas! I dare not truſt my ſelf in any ſort of Correſpondence with you. The leaſt hint

hint in the World of any kind Reflection upon the reading of this Letter, would perchance expoſe me to a Relapſe; and then the taking of me at my Word, on the other ſide, would moſt certainly tranſport me into an Extravagance of Choler, and Deſpair. So that in my Opinion it will be your beſt courſe not to meddle at all with Me, or my Affairs: for which way ſo ever you go to work, it muſt inevitably bring a great diſorder upon both. I have no Curioſity to know

know the ſucceſs of this Letter: Me-thinks the Sorrows you have brought upon me already, might abundantly content you (even if your Deſign were never ſo malicious) without diſturbing me in my Preparations for my future Peace. Do but leave me in my Uncertainty, and I will not yet deſpair, in time, of arriving at ſome degree of Quiet. This I dare promiſe you, that I ſhall never hate you; for I am too great an Enemy to Violent Reſolutions ever to go about it. Who knows

knows but I may yet live to find a truer friend than I have loſt? But Alas! What ſignifies any mans Love to me, if I cannot Love him? Why ſhould his Paſſion work more upon my heart, than mine could upon Yours? I have found by ſad Experience, that the firſt Motions of Love, which we are more properly ſaid to Feel, than to Underſtand, are never to be forgotten: That our ſouls are perpetually Intent upon the Idol which we our ſelves have made: That the firſt Wounds, and the